

wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues an often overlooked story in the debate over the war on drugs in the Western Hemisphere—that being the surprising success story of Bolivia. Even today, as we consider providing additional counter narcotics aid to Colombia to fight the terrible scourge of the drug trade which has so completely engulfed that nation, there is hardly any mention of the success achieved in Bolivia and Peru nor of the importance of providing additional assistance to those nations. It would be critically important that as the Administration considers a new aid package for the anti-drug fight in Colombia that some additional money be included for Peru and Bolivia so that they can continue their progress and ensure that as the Colombians become more successful in their efforts, the drug trade does not return to these other nations.

Bolivia is a success story which many of my colleagues need to know more about. When the current government of Hugo Banzer took office in 1997, the President proclaimed a goal of ridding Bolivia of all illegal coca and cocaine by the Year 2002. Many people familiar with Bolivia's situation proclaimed their skepticism and said that the drug trade was too lucrative for the farmers and peasants of Bolivia to give up, at least not willingly, that there was too much corruption, that given the condition of Bolivia's economy at the time, the Government could not sustain any type of alternative crop development program to win the coca farmers over.

Now, just a little over two years later, Bolivia has successfully eradicated over 50 percent of the illegal coca crop and reduced re-planting to a historically low level. This story has not been easy, nor without problems but with the firm commitment of President Banzer to succeed and under the strong leadership and direction of Vice President Jorge Quiroga and the Dignity Plan, Bolivia is well on its way to meeting its goals. According to the Bolivian government, between August 1997 and October 1999, over 27,000 hectares of coca have been eradicated. 121,000 square meters of coca seedbeds have been destroyed and 225 tons of cocaine bound for the United States or Europe have been interdicted.

Through a combination of domestic political leadership and international support, mostly from the United States, Bolivia has been able to develop a successful strategy which balances interdiction, eradication and alternative development. It is the alternative development program which has been the real success story and one which could become a model for even Colombia if the guerrilla war in that country is ever brought under control.

Mr. Speaker, the integration of illegal coca farmers into the legal economy of Bolivia has been the most urgent priority of the government and has thus far been highly effective. But it is also the most fragile element of the strategy in that unless the alternative crops can be produced and gotten to market in a timely fashion and can bring a financial return equal to coca, the farmers could very easily return to illegal drug cultivation returning Bolivia to the status of a major coca producing nation as in the past.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker is that Bolivia has done a remarkable job in reversing the

drug trade in that region and for that, they should be recognized and congratulated. But more than that, we should be rewarding their success with additional funds which they need and have requested in order to continue the successful effort and ensure that the gains are not reversed. It makes no sense to recognize Bolivia's successful efforts, thank them for all they are doing to help protect American citizens from drugs and then not continue to help them finish the job they set out to do. I hope that our Administration understands this and that if and when they send a request for additional counter narcotics assistance to the Congress they consider including some level of additional assistance for Bolivia.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906,  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID L. HOBSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 1, 1999*

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for a job well done on the fiscal year 2000 Agriculture Appropriations Act which contained \$1.2 billion for disaster assistance.

As you know, this summer's drought has placed a heavy burden on the agricultural industry in several parts of the country. Not only have crops been devastated, but the drought has also caused corresponding economic loss to livestock and dairy producers. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture has recently estimated the natural disaster losses for all affected states to total \$3.56 billion. The State of Ohio alone has suffered losses nearing \$600 million, almost 15 percent of Ohio's largest industry. In my district, Pickaway County's estimated crop value for this year's harvest is \$39 million below average. When this disaster is compounded with the existing low commodity prices, it puts our farmers in the most dire economic situation in recent memory.

Last week, I communicated with both the leadership and committee members to ensure that the final aid package would be augmented to provide adequate funding for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs such as the Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program, the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, the Livestock Assistance Program, and the Emergency Conservation Programs. Thankfully, the Republican Congress was able to pass an Agriculture Appropriations bill that included \$1.2 billion in much-needed disaster assistance for our farmers.

To close, Mr. Speaker, I would again like to commend this Congress and especially those who have been instrumental in passing meaningful economic assistance to the farming community that serves as the foundation of this great Nation.

HONORING LINDA DOOLIN WARD,  
CENTRAL EXCHANGE 1999 WOMAN  
OF THE YEAR

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and friend to our Kansas City community. Today Linda Doolin Ward will be honored as the 1999 Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange. Linda Doolin Ward has an extensive history with Kansas City and has shown outstanding leadership in her career and contributions to our metropolitan area. This prestigious award recognizes her commitment to gender concerns and her desire for equality in the workplace and society.

She is currently President of the Women's Foundation, a local organization dedicated to funding programs and services which assist women. I am especially impressed with her work at the Women's Foundation to establish grants to help meet the health care, employment, and educational needs of women. This year the Foundation will announce \$125,000 worth of grants addressing domestic violence, parenting, and professional development skills.

Serving on numerous boards, Mrs. Doolin Ward has demonstrated her significant presence as a catalyst for change. She was the first woman to be Board President and Chairperson of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City and served as the Executive Director of the Central Exchange. She is the Co-Chair of the FOCUS strategic planning project, was recently appointed to the Port Authority of Kansas City, and serves as a Committee Chairwoman for the Partnership for Children.

Linda Doolin Ward's career is just as impressive as her record of volunteerism. For 15 years she worked as an executive with Payless Cashways, Inc., and is now Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate communications with the American Italian Pasta Company. In addition to these achievements, she is married to her high school sweetheart, Terry Ward, and a devoted mother to her son, Jason. As a role model for women across the nation, Linda Doolin Ward has shown us how to balance family life with work and still make room to contribute to the people in our community.

I am honored to acknowledge Linda Doolin Ward for her successful efforts to promote equity and opportunity for women and her commitment to making our community a better place. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Central Exchange 1999 Woman of the Year, Linda Doolin Ward.

LAND TRANSFER TO THE  
GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, commercial growth along the southwest border increased

at such a rate as to render current infrastructure resources obsolete in dealing with the volume of commercial traffic comfortably, economically and efficiently. Between 1990 and 1995, the border town of San Luis, Arizona witnessed a population increase of more than ninety percent, from 4,212 to 8,026. The combined population of San Luis and its sister city in San Luis, Sonora, Mexico is 350,000.

Since 1924, San Luis has served as a port of entry between the U.S. and Mexico. In 1998, the port experienced average daily crossings of 360 commercial vehicles, 7,500 private vehicles, and 5,865 pedestrian crossings. The average delay experienced by a commercial vehicle is nearly 2 hours. Delays for private vehicles can be of similar length depending on the time of day. Current port facilities are unable to expedite the current volume of traffic, and the increasing volume will only make a bad situation worse, unless efforts are made to reroute commercial traffic.

Today I am introducing legislation that authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to transfer lands to the Greater Yuma Port Authority as a first in a series of steps toward building a new port of entry to clear commercial traffic through San Luis, Arizona.

This legislative measure has the support of the parties that make up the Grater Yuma Port Authority such as Yuma County, the cities of San Luis and Somerton, and the Cocopah Indian Tribe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PEDRO JOSÉ  
GREER, JR.

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true humanitarian, an outstanding Cuban-American physician, a genuine hero, Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr., whose love for mankind, especially for the poor and homeless, is an admirable example for contemporary American society.

My uncle and aunt, Alfredo and Isabel Caballero, recently sent me a book authored by Dr. Greer with the cooperation of another admirable Cuban-American: Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Liz Balmaseda. The book is titled, "Waking Up In America", and I highly recommend it to you, Mr. Speaker, and to all my colleagues.

Dr. Greer courageously denounces how society neglects millions of Americans who lack adequate health care. Dr. Greer is the medical director and one of the founders in South Florida of the Camilus Health Concern, a free clinic for the poor, and the San Juan Bosco Clinic for the poor. He has won a MacArthur Fellowship "Genius Grant" and was recognized by Time Magazine as one of Fifty Top Young Leaders Under 40 in 1994. Dr. Greer has also been honored by two U.S. Presidents.

Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr. was brought up in a family with a tradition of love and service for our fellow man, formed by his father Dr. Pedro Greer, a prestigious Cuban gastroenterologist, and his mother, Mrs. Maria Teresa Medina

Greer. Dr. Greer's great-grandfather fought for Cuba's freedom in 1898.

I would like to express my gratitude and congratulations to Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr. for his love and work for America and also extend this congratulatory message to his proud parents, his wife Janus Munley Greer, his children Alana and Joey and his sister and brother in law, Sally and Brian Belt.

HONORING SCHOOL FOODSERVICE  
DIRECTOR HELEN RANKIN

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to National School Lunch Week which we will celebrate next week. Having grown up in the restaurant business, I feel a special camaraderie with school food service professionals. Every day, professional across the country ensure that our students have at least one hot, nutritious meal to help them grow and learn.

Maine is blessed with many extraordinary school food service professionals. But one in particular stands out—Helen Rankin, foodservice director for Maine School Administrative District 55, based in Hiram, Maine. Hiram is not what anybody would describe as a metropolitan area. It is a small, rural area much like most of Maine.

Helen has brought a degree of professionalism to her operation that belies the small size of the school system. Her commitment to quality and top performance by herself and her staff has made her a leader in Maine and across the nation.

Earlier this year, Helen was featured in the national publication School Foodservice & Nutrition. The article just scratches the surface of Helen's activities on behalf of her clients—school children in the Hiram area and beyond. She recognizes that school food services are a crucial building block in a child's education. We all know that hungry children cannot learn and that their bodies cannot grow and develop as they should.

Helen Rankin is a dynamic, dedicated professional. Maine students have benefitted tremendously from her leadership. I am proud to have the opportunity today to pay tribute to her, and to all of Maine's school foodservice professionals. I hope that next week, during National School Lunch Week, all of my colleagues will take the opportunity to recognize these hardworking individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I insert the School Foodservice & Nutrition article about Helen Rankin to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point.

HELEN RANKIN

BRINGING BIG-TIME PROFESSIONALISM TO A  
SMALL-TOWN DISTRICT

(By Mark Ward, Sr.)

Try to find Hiram, Maine, on a road atlas and it might take you a while. But while the town may be off the main highway, it's squarely on the map of leading school foodservice operations.

"We don't have the facilities of a larger district, but we're still on the cutting edge.

And even if we don't have a lot of students, we do a lot for them," reports Helen Rankin, foodservice director for Maine School Administrative District No. 55, based in Hiram and serving five rural communities in the southwest corner of the state.

What puts Hiram on the school foodservice map is a simple maxim: "I insist on professionalism," declares Rankin of her school nutrition team. For example, though the district's six schools serve just 800 lunches a day, each member of Rankin's staff is an ASFSA member, has taken a sanitation course and is a ServSafe certified food service handler. And despite an annual budget of just \$400,000 (which includes a district appropriation of just \$11,000), the department pays the expenses for its employees to attend state association conferences.

That commitment to professionalism and continuing education starts with Rankin herself. After 40 years in school foodservice, including 30 years in her present post, she's not resting on her laurels. At the state level, she has helped to transform what was a small association into a professional organization that now boasts 700 members and conducts a statewide peer review program. And, as a former Maine School Food Service Association (MSFSA) president, Rankin enjoys respect and clout with state and local policymakers.

And though Hiram may be a small dot on the roadmap, Rankin sees no limit to her own professional horizons. She has spoken at conferences across the country, been nominated twice for ASFSA national office and served as Northeast Regional Director on the National Association's Executive Board. Throughout the 1990s, Rankin's influence has been felt on the ASFSA Public Policy and Legislative Committee and, more recently, its Political Action Committee (PAC).

"By making a commitment to get involved with my profession," Rankin reflects, "I've had opportunities that a person from a small rural town, who started out with only a 9th-grade education, might only have dreamed of."

FROM PTA TO PROFESSIONAL

Forty years ago, the notion that a school cafeteria worker could be a "school foodservice professional" was rarely encouraged—or even understood. Back then, Rankin says, she first became involved with school meals "because the PTA, which I was president of, was responsible for the hot lunch program." When the group hired a new cook who quit after just one day, it was up to Rankin to fill the gap. "We had 75 students at that school and, after volunteering at first, I ultimately got paid \$15 a week to cook the meals and clean the kitchen," she recalls.

Over time, Rankin received her own high school equivalency certificate and went on to earn a bachelor's degree. Then in her ninth year as de facto school foodservice manager, the school was incorporated into a newly formed district. In turn, that brought the hiring of a district foodservice director. Like the cook a decade earlier, the person who filled this position resigned after a brief stint, which paved the way for Rankin to assume the post.

"In those days we had no free lunch program, and I can remember kids who would bring in a jar of water and a piece of bread to eat," Rankin continues. Now, 30 years later, "We have reimbursable meals, a breakfast program, a la carte service—plus marketing and promotion, and the expectation that we have to be financially self-supporting. Times certainly have changed," she adds.